

## HOME BUDDY PROGRAM

The support and enthusiasm displayed by AISA members and volunteers in the many AISA endeavors to help new students in Aachen has inspired us to launch another program to assist our new college mates by making their transition to Aachen smooth and easy.

You are all aware of the problems caused on account of acute shortage of housing in Aachen and while we are working with the University and the International Office to address this, an increasing number of the new batch of students is required to seek private housing with limited University assistance.

Understandably, it is difficult for students to pre-book apartments (which are generally more expensive than University housing) without viewing the apartment and its location in person and for private landlords to hold on to their apartments for prospective students without any guarantee that such student will take up the housing on arrival in Aachen.

We at AISA therefore propose to launch the "Home Buddy" program to address this situation. The program details are set out below:

- Prospective students can request for a visit or send an email regarding location suitability or other doubts by sending an e-mail to: [accommodations.aisa@gmail.com](mailto:accommodations.aisa@gmail.com) Students are also required to submit the University Admission letter, a copy of the first and last page of the passport and a written firm commitment to take up an apartment if one is finalized through use of this Program.
- Volunteers (Seniors already in Aachen) can enroll with AISA to participate in the Program by sending an e-mail to: [accommodations.aisa@gmail.com](mailto:accommodations.aisa@gmail.com) with subject Volunteer.
- Prospective students will be put in touch with volunteers who will visit and view the apartments shortlisted by such student and provide a feedback to the student in respect of location, cleanliness, neighborhood and reasonability of rent.
- Prospective students will have to take responsibility and contact the Landlords. When the Landlords reply positively and are willing to provide an Appointment to visit the Apartment then forward the details to us. We can come to an agreement about favourable times and available volunteers to visit the house in your stead and if all works out, assure the Landlord that you are serious about taking the Apartment.

AISA will run a background check on the student's sincerity and allocate apartment viewings to volunteers based on the proximity of such apartments from the volunteer's place of residence and or time availability for the volunteer.

Please note that neither AISA nor the volunteers will sign any lease in advance or undertake any obligations. The sole objective of this program is to provide valuable assistance, in terms of feedback, to the prospective students and provide assurance to the landlords that the student is seriously willing to take their apartment.

This program is being conducted in collaboration with the International Office and all the volunteers will be issued a certificate of appreciation by AISA upon successfully and sincerely participating in the program.

Additionally, for students participating in the [Certificate International](#) program of the International Office, this certificate will count towards one requirement in group 2 of the certificate requirements.

Please contact AISA on [accommodations.aisa@gmail.com](mailto:accommodations.aisa@gmail.com) for any clarification.

### Disclaimer

- AISA or its volunteers do not take part in any contract / verbal agreement between the two parties. Such agreements should be made on self-judgement and details are to be decided by the students themselves.
- AISA does not hold responsibility for any misconduct on account of any of the students involved.
- The program is meant for students who have already established first contact with the landlords for accommodation and there is a possibility of the deal going forward.
- **We at AISA are also full time students and have the same resources available to us as other students. Due to constraints in time and resources, emails blindly asking us to search for accommodations will be ignored. Tips and information on how to search for accommodations has been provided in the [Accommodation Information](#) document.**
- Apartment visits, etc are subject to availability of volunteers and their schedules. Please send us an early request and also enough time to get back to you.
- Certificates will be awarded only to volunteers who have actively contributed to the program.

# TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

This is a new platform which would help the freshers acquire a temporary place to stay as soon as they arrive in Aachen. The idea is free exchange of hospitality. Students who are currently in Aachen would volunteer to accommodate students who are to arrive in Aachen without an immediate place to crash. The duration can be anywhere between 2-5 days depending on the volunteer's convenience. Students who are volunteering (**hosts**) need to fill up a form  
(Check the link below)

<http://goo.gl/5XxQ2U>

Kindly read the following Do's and Dont's carefully.

## DO's and DONT's for the Volunteers

- Please DO NOT charge any money from the freshers for the house rent. This conflicts with the very idea of this initiative.
- Once an allotment has been made, it is a commitment between the host and the fresher. We cannot guarantee a replacement in case of any cancelations thereafter. This has to be communicated between the concerned parties.
- Do not hesitate to share the day to day living expenses (food, BEER! etc) with the person you are hosting.
- Students living in a WG are obliged to inform the other members of the WG about a visitor staying with you and using the common utilities like the kitchen, bathrooms etc.
- It is very important that you communicate well to the student how he can and can't use your space. Make sure that they understand how and when they should come and go from your place. Be clear about what they can and can't use: your computer, your phone, etc.
- We would appreciate it if you share your experience and knowledge with the new students and make it a pleasant stay for them so that they feel welcome in a foreign country. ☺

## DO's and DONT's for the freshers

- Please understand that the volunteers are willing to host you despite their exams and busy schedule. Please appreciate their effort and **do not** take any undue advantage of their generosity.
- Kindly let us know your date and time of arrival in Aachen in advance and also the number of days you require a temporary place to stay (max 5 days per person).
- In case you are allotted a temporary accommodation and for some reason you don't want to take it please inform us well in advance (minimum 10 days) so that the same place can be allotted to someone who is really in need of a place.
- We would like to assist people who are really in need of a place to stay. Please do not keep this as a back-up option if you already have a confirmed accommodation and rob other people of their opportunity.
- You are expected to share the daily living expenses if your volunteer asks you to.
- The allotment is non-transferrable. Please refrain from letting your friend etc stay on your behalf with the volunteer who has been allotted to you.

- Please understand that your host will have exams/busy schedule otherwise during the period of your stay. So please do not expect them to accompany you for activities like city registration/enrolment etc.
- Indian sweets and snacks, as a token of gratitude for your host are always welcome ☺ ☺

## DISCLAIMER

- All allotments are done (subject to availability) on a first cum first serve basis. The earlier you apply, the more your chances are of getting a host.
- AISA or its volunteers will not take part in any of the disputes between the two parties. Such agreements should be made on self-judgement and details are to be decided by the students themselves.
- AISA does not hold responsibility for any misconduct on account of any of the students involved.
- We at AISA are also full time students with exams round the corner. So kindly refrain from sending us mails asking us to search for accommodations. We have pretty much the same resources as you do.